



Sonoma County Upstream Investments Policy Committee Charter

Vision: Our community invests early in prevention efforts, invests wisely in approaches proven to work and invests together by aligning investments for maximum impact.

Mission: We believe organizations with effective practices and programs have the highest potential to improve *education, health, and economic wellness* for all Sonoma County residents.

Why does the Policy Committee operate? The Upstream Investments Policy Committee promotes the implementation and funding of evidence-informed and prevention focused approaches, policies and system change efforts.

How does the Policy Committee function? The members serve as a conduit between the committee and the community (community-based organizations, local philanthropy, County agencies, and others) to increase the implementation and funding of evidence-informed and prevention focused approaches to improve the well-being of all.

The members steward this work in the following ways:

- Promote and support the implementation of evidence-informed and prevention focused approaches
- Promote and adopt upstream policies within their institution or sector
- Build awareness of the value of these effective approaches
- Serve as a thought partner to advance the implementation of evidence-informed and prevention focused approaches
- Shift investments towards evidence-informed and prevention focused approaches
- Provide feedback to community partners about the effectiveness of funding and implementing evidence-informed and prevention focused approaches
- Host, promote and/or arrange Upstream presentations and trainings
- Promote use of the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs

What is the Policy Committee? The Policy Committee is chartered by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. The Policy Committee works in partnership with the Health Action Council to advance evidence-informed, prevention-focused approaches with the highest potential to improve education, health and economic wellness for all Sonoma county residents. The Committee monitors movement on shared community-level outcomes and the Portfolio of Model Upstream Programs.

Who are the members of the Policy Committee? The Policy Committee is comprised of up to 25 members (philanthropy, community-based organizations, County agencies, business community, school districts and others) who are stewards of the “invest early, invest wisely and invest together” strategy. The Committee aims for diverse leaders who implement or fund evidence-informed, prevention-focused approaches and represent multiple sectors. Member organizations actively participate on the committee, ad hoc workgroups and learning communities. Members commit to two-year terms and attend quarterly meetings.

Member Selection

The Upstream Investments Team (Human Services Department) is responsible for electing members who represent the expertise described above.

Examples of the Policy Committee’s Current Work

- Serve as thought partners for the expansion of four shared measurement projects – Road to Early Achievement of Development of Youth (READY), Keeping Kids in School (KKIS), Guiding People Successfully Program (GPS) and Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS).
- Build awareness of prevention-focused policies – expanding work to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and implement 2 Generational approaches to promote an inter-generational cycle of success.
- Support the Upstream backbone team as they work with community-based organizations and county agencies to build their confidence and expertise in program planning and evaluation design. For example, participating on the Portfolio Review Committee and providing input on the new approach to program planning and evaluation coaching.
- Serve as members of the Contracting Ad Hoc Committee. The Contracting Committee focuses on developing recommendations for embedding Upstream Investments’ principles in the contracting process.
- Participate in the Systems Change Evaluation of the Upstream Investments Initiative.
- Craft sector based talking points to inform the Champions Toolkit. Participate in a training on how to use the Toolkits and then use Toolkits to share the Upstream message throughout Sonoma County.
- Support integration with Health Action by adopting the Health Action Framework for Action and aligning with the shared community priorities.